AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A device which is a first device for fitting a second device thereto, the device, comprising:

an attaching section to which the second device is fitted; and

a removable cover that can be entirely detached from a main unit of the first device,

when the second device is not fitted to the main unit of the first device, the removable cover serving a first function as a cover for the attaching section, wherein

one of the first device and the second device is provided with object determination means which determines whether or not there exists any object at a predetermined position,

prior to fitting the second device to the main unit of the first device, the removable cover is entirely detached from the attaching section,

while the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, the removable cover exists at the position determined by the object determination means, and is attached to a device which is not provided with the object determination means of the first device and the second device, and

when the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, the removable cover serving a second function which is different from the first function, such that the removable cover is entirely detached from the first device at a location at which the removable cover serves

as a cover for the attaching section and then reattached to one of either the first device and the second device in a state different from a state when the second device is not fitted to the main unit of the first device.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The device according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein:

the object determination means is an actuator, and

the second function is a function as a shock-absorbing member with respect to the actuator.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein:

the second function is a function associated with the second device.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A control system comprising:

a first device;

a second device; and

a removable cover covering an attaching section which is provided in a main unit of the first device to fit the second device to the main unit of the first device, wherein:

the removable cover, when the second device is not fitted to the main unit of the first device, serves a first function as a cover for the attaching section,

the removable cover, when the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, serves a second function which is different from the first function, such that the removable cover is provided to the first device in a state different from a state when the second device is not fitted to the main unit of the first device, and

if the removable cover does not serve the second function when the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, at least one of the main unit of the first device, and the main unit of the first device and the second device, is caused not to operate.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) An image forming device comprising:

an attachment section at which said image forming device is connectable to an auxiliary device; and

a removable cover attachable to said image forming device in a first manner to cover said attachment section and in a second manner to enable said image forming device and the auxiliary device to function together when the auxiliary device is connected to said image forming device, wherein

said cover is adapted to engage an actuator on the auxiliary device when said cover is secured to said image forming device in the second manner and is to function as a shock absorbing device.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method of selectively rendering operable an image forming device connected to an auxiliary device comprising the steps of:

providing an image forming device having an attachment section for attachment to an auxiliary device and an enablement section for supporting an element for enabling the joint operation of the image forming device and the auxiliary device;

attaching a removable cover at the attachment section;

providing an auxiliary device attachable to the image forming device;

removing the removable cover;

repositioning the removable cover and reattaching the removable cover at the enablement section; and

attaching the auxiliary device to the imaging forming device such that the removable cover enables the joint operation of the image forming device and the auxiliary device.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said step of repositioning the removable cover and reattaching the removable cover at the enablement section comprises the steps of reattaching the removable cover at a location spaced from the attachment section.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein said step of repositioning the removable cover and reattaching the removable cover at the enablement section comprises the steps of reattaching the removable cover at a location at least partially overlying the attachment section.

20. (Previously Presented) In an image forming device including an attachment section at which an auxiliary device is attachable to the image forming device and a removable cover for covering the attachment section when no auxiliary device is attached to the attachment section, a method of preventing loss of the removable cover comprising the steps of:

configuring the auxiliary device or the image forming device so as to be inoperable when the auxiliary device is connected to the image forming device unless an enabling device is connected to the image forming device; and

configuring the removable cover as the enabling device.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of configuring the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a shock absorbing element for engaging an actuator on the auxiliary device.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of configuring the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a reflective surface for reflecting a distance measuring light of the auxiliary device.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of configuring the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a portion of a paper guide path between a paper source in the auxiliary device and a photoconductive drum in the image forming device.

24. (Previously Presented) In an image forming device including an attachment section at which an auxiliary device is attachable to the image forming device and a removable cover for covering the attachment section when no auxiliary device is attached to the attachment section, a

method of using an enabling device to connect the auxiliary device to the image forming device comprising:

configuring the auxiliary device or the image forming device so as to be inoperable when the auxiliary device is connected to the image forming device unless the enabling device is connected to the image forming device; and

using the removable cover as the enabling device.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein said step of using the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a shock absorbing element for engaging an actuator on the auxiliary device.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein said step of using the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a reflective surface for reflecting a distance measuring light of the auxiliary device.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein said step of using the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a portion of a paper guide path between a paper source in the auxiliary device and a photoconductive drum in the image forming device.